

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	70523	Agenda Number	12.
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Meeting Date:	5/11/2017	Department:	Development Services
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Subject

Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 25-12, Article 12 (Energy Code), relating to regulations for solar ready provisions in the construction of new residential and commercial buildings (Suggested date and time: June 15, 2017, 4:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX).

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:	
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Prior Council Action:	February 2, 2017 – City Council approved Resolution No. 20170202-040 directing staff to implement solar ready provisions to be effective October 1, 2017. June 23, 2017 - Adopted the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code with local amendments.
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For More Information:	Carl Wren, Assistant Director, DSD (512) 974-7254; Kurt Stogdill, Manager, Green Building and Sustainability, AE (512) 322-6510.
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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	<p>April 25, 2017 – Reviewed by the Mechanical, Plumbing and Solar Board. No action taken.</p> <p>April 26, 2017 – Reviewed by the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals. No action taken.</p> <p>May 15, 2017 – To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission.</p> <p>May 16, 2017 To be reviewed by the Resource Management Commission.</p>
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MBE / WBE:	
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Related Items:	
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Additional Backup Information

The City of Austin's Energy Code consists of the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and local amendments. This "solar-ready" amendment to the Energy Code requires that new residential and commercial construction reserve rooftop space to more easily accommodate future installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) equipment. This required "solar-ready zone" must be an area of the rooftop free from obstructions. In addition, this solar-ready amendment requires that space in the electric service panel or distribution system be reserved for integration of a future PV system. This amendment does not require installation of a PV system, but it does require that new construction be performed in a thoughtful way that reduces obstacles to installing solar power in the future. This proposed amendment allows exceptions for small dwelling units, shaded areas, buildings on the downtown grid, occupied rooftops, and to accommodate other City Code requirements.

The IECC provides for reduced energy use in both residential and commercial buildings. The proposed solar-ready amendments to the IECC support The City of Austin's policy relating to the Zero Energy Capable Homes Initiative (Resolution No. 20071018-036) and the Austin Climate Protection Plan.